issue in the final document adopted by the NAM Summit were not supported by other delegations.

Degradation of Forests in the Country

298. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the growing degradation of forests in the country.

(b) the steps taken to identify the factors responsible for the degradation and destruction of the forests in different States; and

(c) the details of the efforts made to preserve the forest wealth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) It is not true that the degradation of forests is on the increase. On the contrary the State of Forest Report 1993 of the Forest Survey of India indicates an increase of 925 Sq. Kms compared with the 1991 assessment of forest in the country. This includes an overall increase in the dense forest cover by 568 Sq. Kms.

(b) the main reasons identified for the degradation of the forests in the country include illegal removal of fuelwood, foddar, timber and other non-timber forest produce due to increasing biotic pressures of growing human and cattle populations on forests. Quarrying, mining, laying of transmission lines and certain other developmental activities and encroachments also result in degradation of forests. Forest fires, floods, droughts and landslides are also important reasons of degradation of forests.

(c) The measures adopted to prevent degradation of the forests in the country are:

(1) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are in force to check forest and wildlife offences.

(2) There is a check exercised by the Govt of India on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980.

(3) Modern means of communications like wireless sets, fast speed vehicles etc are provided to protective staff. Flying squads patrol sensitive areas to check illicit removal of forest produce.

(4) Joint Forest Management has been introduced in the country to allow people's participation in the management of forest.

(5) Use of gobar gas and natural gas as alternatives to fuelwood is encouraged.

(6) Fuel efficient chulahs are introduced in the habitations surrounding forests.

(7) Massive afforestation programmes have been launched in different states to regenerate degraded forest areas.

(8) Wood substitutes and recycling of materials is encouraged to reduce pressure on forests.

(9) Awareness campaigns are organised to protect tree growth.

इलाहाबाद में "इफ्को" द्वारा प्रदूषण

299. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** :

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि इलाहाबाद के निकट स्थित "इफ्को" उर्वरक संयंत्र के कारण बढ़ते हुए पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषण से पेड़ मुरझा रहे हैं और फसले प्रभावित हो रही हैं

(ख) क्या यह भी सच हैं कि उवर्रक संयंत्र द्वारा प्रदूषित जल के उपयोग के कारण हजारों व्यक्ति/बच्चे विकलांग होते जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस उर्वरक संयंत्र के कारण

* होने वाले पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषण की समस्या का कोई समाधान किया हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं; और

(ड.) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट) : (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) उत्तर प्रदेश नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अनुसार इकाई ने जरूरी वायु और जल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण लगा लिया हैं। बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने जनवरी, मार्च और अगस्त, 1995 में इकाई का निरीक्षण किया था और रिपोर्ट दी थी कि बड़े वायु तथा जल प्रदूषण पैरामीटर निर्धारित मानकों के अंदर हैं। बोर्ड ने आस-पास के गांवों का सर्वेक्षण भी किया हैं तथा पौधों और पशुओं पर कोई विषाक्त प्रभाव पड़ने की रिपोर्ट नहीं दी हैं।

(ड.) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Telephone Services in Metropolitan Cities

300. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise number of telephones added to the telephone network of four Metropolitan Cities of the country during the last five years;

(b) what is the proportionate increase brought out in the staff strength during the corresponding period for the telephone network of the Metropolitan Cities;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Fault Repair Service of the Telephone Exchanges in the aforesaid cities has deteriorated considerably; and

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Number of Telephones added to the telephone network of four Metropolitan cities during the last five years are given in the statement. (See below)

(b) Staff Strength and percentage change is given in Annexure-II.

(c) No Sir, Fault repair service is working satisfactorily.

(d) the steps being contemplated to improve the fault repair service are:

(i) Computerisation of Fault Repair Service,

(ii) Upgradation of external network,

(iii) Paying special attention for rectification of pending faults by monitoring at the senior level of management.

Statement

Number of Telephones added in four Metro Cities during last five years, year wise.

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Bombay	47146	92125	107168	137179	205049
2. Calcutta	10184	15544	26208	34386	45387
3. Delhi,	62009	84710	83558	125020	153090
4. Madras.	13753	12177	21979	30427	43155